



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,422	02/21/2002	Meir Feder	MSI-1150US	8274
22801	7590	11/12/2008		
LEE & HAYES PLLC 601 W Riverside Avenue Suite 1400 SPOKANE, WA 99201			EXAMINER CZEKAJ, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/12/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,422

Applicant(s)

FEDER ET AL.

Examiner

DAVID CZEKAJ

Art Unit

2621

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-18 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-18 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/28/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-18, and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1, 3-18, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. While the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing (Reference the May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining Policy, John J. Love, titled "Clarification of 'Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101"). The instant claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another

Art Unit: 2621

statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 3-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boucher et al. (6675387), (hereinafter referred to as "Boucher") in view of van der Schaar et al. (6785334), (hereinafter referred to as "Schaar") in further view of Hazra (6510553) in further view of Yada et al. (5870145), (hereinafter referred to as "Yada").

Regarding claim 1, Boucher discloses an apparatus that relates to preparing multimedia data for transmission (Boucher: column 1, lines 22-24). This apparatus comprises "determining a quality for a part of an image based on a rate of change associated with the portion of the image" (Boucher: column 11, lines 24-29, wherein the one quality is the higher or lower quality, the part of the image is the background or text, wherein the rate of change is the object being static) and "transmitting the image part using the transport" (Boucher: figure 3, wherein the transport is the cable network). However, Boucher fails to disclose generating and transmitting enhancement data. Schaar teaches that prior art processing systems fail to efficiently utilize network bandwidth (Schaar: column 1, lines 42-45). To help alleviate this problem, Schaar discloses "generating and

transmitting a data block of image enhancement data if the image part did not change in a time period" (Schaar: figure 3A, column 4, lines 10-14, wherein the enhancement data is the enhancement layer, the image part not changing is the same image being displayed, i.e. the image does not change to the next image). Hazra teaches that prior art systems won't allow the user to give streams a priority ensuring a suitable quality for display (Hazra: column 2, lines 25-33). To help alleviate this problem, Hazra discloses "wherein the generating and transmitting are not performed when the portion of the image changed during the time period" (Hazra: column 7, lines 25-50, wherein the image change is switching the primary source, wherein the secondary source only receives the base layer). Yada teaches that prior art encoding systems cause block distortion (Yada: column 2, lines 45-54). To help alleviate this problem, Yada teaches "transmitting enhancement data for an image, wherein the macroblock of the image is less than the entire image, the macroblock being determined by changes occurring in the block during image generation" (Yada: column 6, lines 26-29; column 7, lines 14-21; wherein the activity indicates the changes occurring in the block). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Boucher, add the enhancement schemes taught by Schaar and Hazra, and add the processing taught by Yada in order to obtain an apparatus that efficiently utilizes available network bandwidth.

Regarding claim 3, Boucher discloses "generating without decoding previously used DCT coefficients" (Boucher: column 11, lines 1-6).

Regarding claims 4-7, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious make the static image not change for many frames or many seconds (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to allow enough time to pass to verify the image was in fact static.

Regarding claim 8, although Schaar discloses transmitting less enhancement data once a target is met (Schaar: figure 3), Schaar fails to disclose not transmitting enhancement data once a quality target is met. Although not disclosed, it would have been obvious not to transmit data once a quality is met (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to conserve network resources.

Regarding claim 10, Boucher discloses "the transport comprises an MPEG-type transport" (Boucher: column 11, lines 29-31).

Regarding claim 11, Boucher discloses "decoding the image using a standard MPEG decoder" (Boucher: column 12, lines 60-61).

Regarding claim 12, Boucher discloses "calculating a synchronization frame for the transport by mapping a representation of the image to a representation of the image as it should be" (Boucher: column 13, lines 30-40, wherein the calculation of the synchronization frame is the pulling together of the macroblocks, the mapping is the updating).

Regarding claims 13-14, Boucher discloses "associating with the image an indication of a suitable target/initial quality for the image part" (Boucher: column 11, lines 26-29, wherein the association is associating the background with a low quality).

Regarding claim 15, Boucher discloses "associating with the image an indication of an expected rate of change of the part" (Boucher: column 11, lines 23-25, wherein the expected rate of change is the background remaining static).

Regarding claims 16-17, Boucher discloses "generating the indication by an image generator" (Boucher: column 10, lines 24-25, wherein the image generator is the MPEG encoder).

Regarding claim 18, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious to generate the indication by analyzing a past profile of changes (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to successfully detect errors by having a tolerable range of motion values.

3. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soundararajan (7039113) in view of Schaar et al. (6785334), (hereinafter referred to as "Schaar") in further view of in further view of Yada et al. (5870145), (hereinafter referred to as "Yada").

Regarding claim 37, Soundararajan discloses "a first portion of an image is distinct from the second portion of the image" (Soundararajan: figure 2), "the first and second portion have first and second quality levels" (Soundararajan: figure 2; column 4, lines 50-54), "a first and second data block each

corresponding to the first and second portions of the image" (Soundararajan: figure 2; column 4, lines 50-54) and "such that an improvement in quality between the first original and first new level is greater than improvement between the second original and second new" (Soundararajan: column 4, lines 50-60, wherein the enhanced region has a greater improvement in image quality). However, this apparatus lacks the comparing and changes as claimed. Schaar teaches that prior art processing systems fail to efficiently utilize network bandwidth (Schaar: column 1, lines 42-45). To help alleviate this problem, Schaar discloses "determining a first and second portion degree of change by comparing the data block in the second frame to the data block in the first frame, wherein the degree of change provides a representation of how different the portion of the image resulting from the second from is from the first portion" (Schaar: figure 1; column 3, lines 5-20, wherein the residual image provides the degree of change), and "encoding a third frame based on the two analysis's wherein the third frame comprises a first and second data block that correspond to the first and second portions of the image" (Schaar: figures 1-3). Yada teaches "identifying changes in a first and second macroblock by utilizing changes occurring in the first and second blocks" (Yada: column 6, lines 26-29; column 7, lines 14-21). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Soundararajan, add the comparing taught by Schaar, and add the

identification taught by Xia in order to obtain an apparatus that utilizes the entire network bandwidth.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID CZEKAJ whose telephone number is (571)272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dave Czekaj/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621